

Amendments to the specification:

Page 2, the par. beginning at line 3:

Also, other welding methods are known for example in automotive or aeronautical engineering for joining components of light metals with components of steel. Mechanical jointing procedures and cementing techniques are used in this connection for forming a spot-like or ~~axial~~ areal connection between a work piece of light metal and a work piece of steel. Friction weld joints of this material combination are performed with structural components generally only in the form of bolt friction welds. The friction weld processes used up to now are not suitable to join materials over an extended section in a material-interlocking manner. Therefore, work pieces which have been joined by friction welding do not have the strength required for many joints.

Page 4, the par. beginning at line 26:

The interconnection of the work pieces can be improved in that a pressure is applied to the material ~~to~~ being plasticized so that, after cooling of the material, the lower work piece is joined to the upper work piece.

Page 6, the par. beginning at line 3:

The pin-like projection and/or the shoulder may be provided with a wear layer so that the apparatus provides a reliable connection between the work pieces. The wear layer may consist of diamonds or another hard material in order to improve the ~~live~~ life and operation of the apparatus.

Page 6, the last par. extending to page 7:

The tool 10 is pressed axially against the work piece 13 and is rotated so that between the tool 10 or, respectively, the projection 11 thereof, friction heat is generated which locally plasticizes the adjacent material of the work piece 13 permitting the projection 11 to advance into and through the work piece 13. When the projection 11 of the tool 10 has advanced through the work piece 13, it comes into contact with the surface of the work piece 14. When the welding tool 16 has locally plasticized the work piece 13 (for example of aluminum), as a result of the pressure applied to the tool, the plasticized material is pressed by the shoulders 13 into the grooves 16 ~~(Fig. 16)~~ (Fig. 1b). The shoulder 12 of the tool 10 generates, because of the axial force applied thereto, a pressure in the plasticized material of the work piece 13. Then the welding tool 10 is moved along a predetermined connecting area.